Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016]   Referring now to Fig. 2, a virtual IC fabrication system (a "virtual fab") 200 is one embodiment of a system that can be used to implement the method 100 of Fig. 1. The virtual fab includes a plurality of entities, represented by one or more internal entities 202 and one or more external entities 204 that are connected by a communications network ~~206~~214. The network ~~206~~214 may be a single network or may be a variety of different networks, such as an intranet and the Internet, and may include both wireline and wireless communication channels.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025]   The virtual fab 300 includes a plurality of entities 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, and 312 that are connected by a communications network ~~314~~214. In the present example, the entity 302 represents a service system, the entity 304 represents a customer, the entity 306 represents an engineer, the entity 308 represents a design/lab facility for IC design and testing, the entity 310 represents a fab facility, and the entity 312 represents a process (e.g., an automated fabrication process) either inside the fab 310, or at another facility. Each entity may interact with other entities and may provide services to and/or receive services from the other entities.

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037]   Referring now to Fig. 4, an exemplary email system 400, such as may be used within the virtual fab 200 of Fig. 2, is illustrated. The email system ~~500~~400 includes hardware ~~502~~402, software ~~504~~404, a plurality of protocols ~~506~~406, and email screen saver software ~~508~~408. The hardware ~~502~~402 may be a computer, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a wired or cellular phone, a pager, or any other device able to receive a message. The software ~~504~~404 may be any email program. The plurality of protocols ~~506~~406 may include Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP), Post Office Protocol, version 3 (POP3), Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP),

Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP), or any other suitable protocol. In the present example, the email screen saver ~~508~~408 is illustrated as part of the email system ~~500~~400. However, it is understood that it may be a separate module or component residing elsewhere on a network or storage device.

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043]   Referring now to Fig. 7, in yet another embodiment, an exemplary window 700 enables a user to access received email without having full access to a computer or other device receiving the email. In the present example, the window 700 is a pop-up window that appears while a screen saver is running. The window 700 includes a plurality of email operation buttons, such as a Reply button 702, a New ~~Mail~~Message button 704, and a Send button 706. The window 700 may also include a text box 708 into which messages may be entered. In some embodiments, as a protective measure, the user may be unable to delete a received email without deactivating the screen saver. In other embodiments, the window 700 may give the user complete control of the received email.